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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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POLL FILE FOR UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS, TIME
NEWSWEEK AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO AND NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO

ETHIOPIA-EMPEROR-DETENTION
ADDIS ABABA, SEPTEMBER 12, 1974 --

EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE, DEPOSED EARLIER TODAY BY THE ARMED FORCES
AFTER FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS OF RULE, HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS
PALACE AND PLACED UNDER DETENTION IN THE FOURTH DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS HERE IN THE CAPITAL.
THE DECISION TO REMOVE THE EIGHTY-TWO (82) YEAR OLD FORMER MONARCH
CAME AFTER A DEPUTATION OF THE ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WENT TO THE PALACE TO PERSONALLY INFORM HIM OF ITS ACTION.
OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID THIS WAS DONE DURING A BRIEF CEREMONY
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE STILL DEFIANT FORMER KING OF KINGS WAS
DRIVEN TO THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN THE BACK SEAT OF A
SMALL BLUE VOLKSWAGON.
IT IS AT THE FOURTH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS THAT NEARLY TWO
HUNDRED (200) HIGH-RANKING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE
CURRENTLY BEING HELD AWAITING TRAIL ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION
GRAFT AND MALPRACTICE IN OFFICE.
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A LARGE CROWD HAS NOW GATHERED OUTSIDE THE HEADQUARTERS SHOUTING

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INSULTS AT THE DEPOSED MONARCH AND CHANTING AND SINGING THE
PRAISES OF ETHIOPIA, THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE AND ITS ETHIOPIA
FIRST MOVEMENT.
THERE CONTINUES TO BE NO INDICATION AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE
CIVILIAN CABINET OF PRIME MINISTER MIKAEL IMRU OR PRINCESS
TENNAGNE WORK, THE EMPEROR'S ONLY SURVIVING DAUGHTER WHO WAS
ARRESTED AND TAKEN FROM HER PALACE LATE YESTERDAY.
FIRST REPORTS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE SAY THE RURAL POPULATION, WHERE
ANY REMAINING SUPPORT FOR THE EMPEROR WOULD BE BASED, HAS TAKEN
THE NEWS CALMLY AND FOR THE MOST PART, WITHOUT EMOTION.
DESPITE EARLIER APPEALS BY THE ARMED FORCES FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO
WORK AND TO MOVE OFF THE STREETS, THE USUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE
CONTINUE TO WANDER AROUND, GAZING AT THE FEW TANKS AND ARMOURED
CARS IN EVIDENCE AROUND THE CAPITAL AND CLUSTERING AROUND SMALL
TRANSITORS RADIOS FOR THE LATEST NEWS.
IN ITS FIRST STATEMENT TO THE NATION SINCE ASSUMING ABSOLUTE POWER,
THE SPECIAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL SAID ITS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE
UNCHANGED FROM THAT OF THE PREVIOUS CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. IT
SAID ETHIOPIA WOULD REMAIN STRICTLY NON-ALIGNED AND WOULD
CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY THE DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. IT SAID ETHIOPIA'S PAST POLICY
OF BEING ANTI-COLONIALIST WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AND THE SPECIAL
MILITARY TRIBUNAL WOULD WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT FRIENDLY
TIES WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENT,ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH SUDAN, KENYA
SOMALIA AND EGYPT.
PICK UP ON PREVIOUS POOL DISPACH.
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